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REPORT OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

Report of the Committee for Development Planning: General review of the list of the least developed countries

Programme budget implications of draft resolution A/C.2/49/L.16

Statement submitted by the Secretary-General in accordance with rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly

## A. Request contained in the draft resolution

1. By operative paragraphs 1 and 2 of draft resolution A/C.2/49/L.16, the General Assembly would:

(a) Take note of the general review of the list of the least developed countries 1/ carried out by the Committee for Development Planning with a view to identifying which countries should be included in or graduated from the group of least developed countries;

(b) Endorse the recommendations of the Committee to add Angola and Eritrea to the list of least developed countries and to graduate Botswana from the list, with immediate effect. 2/

## B. Relationship of the proposed requests to the medium-term plan and the programme budget for the biennium 1994-1995

2. The requests contained in the draft resolution relate to subprogramme 1 (Least developed countries) of programme 15 (Least developed, land-locked and island developing countries, and special programmes) of major programme IV (International economic cooperation for development) of the medium-term plan for

the period 1992-1997 and to section 15 (United Nations Conference on Trade and Development) of the programme budget for the biennium 1994-1995.

3. Provision is also made under section 1 of the programme budget for the biennium 1994-1995 for travel of representatives of Member States that are least developed countries to sessions of the General Assembly. This activity is not programmed.

C. Activities by which the proposed request would be implemented

4. Should the General Assembly adopt draft resolution A/C.2/49/L.16, it is the understanding of the Secretary-General that Angola and Eritrea would be added to the list of least developed countries in 1994 and that provision for the travel of their representatives at the expense of the Organization would take effect during the forty-ninth session of the General Assembly.

D. Additional requirements for 1994-1995

5. In accordance with General Assembly resolution 1798 (XVII) of 11 December 1962, as amended by resolutions 2245 (XXI) of 20 December 1966 and 2489 (XXIII) and 2491 (XXIII) of 21 December 1968, travel but not subsistence expenses have been paid by the Organization for not more than five representatives, including four alternate representatives, of each Member State attending a regular session of the General Assembly and for one representative or alternate representative attending a special or special emergency session of the General Assembly. Travel expenses were limited to first-class travel in respect of one representative of each Member State and economy travel in respect of four alternate representatives of each Member State. Subsequently, by its resolution 41/213 of 19 December 1986, the Assembly decided that the reimbursement of travel costs for representatives to the General Assembly should be limited to the least developed countries; and by its resolution 45/248 A, section XIII, of 21 December 1990, many of the representatives affected by the above provisions are entitled to reimbursement of expenses for travel in the class immediately below first class, rather than in economy class.

6. It is estimated, therefore, that should the General Assembly adopt draft resolution A/C.2/49/L.16, the additional costs in 1994-1995 for first-class travel of one representative each of Angola and Eritrea and business-class travel of four representatives each to two sessions of the General Assembly would amount to $109,800 (namely, $54,100 in 1994 and $55,700 in 1995). These additional costs are offset by the cost of first-class travel and business-class travel of representatives of Botswana, estimated at $66,600 ($32,800 in 1994 and $33,800 in 1995). The net additional cost during the 1994-1995 biennium is estimated at $43,200.

## E. Potential for absorption

7. The provision under section 1 of the programme budget for the biennium 1994-1995 relates to travel to sessions of the General Assembly by representatives of 47 least developed countries. The net additional cost in during the 1994-1995 biennium for the travel of representatives of Angola and Eritrea and the deletion of the provisions for travel of representatives of Botswana is estimated at $43,200. While no provision has been made for the travel of five additional representatives to the General Assembly, the extent of the additional requirements which may arise could be determined only after the pattern of expenditures for travel to the forty-ninth session of the General Assembly in 1994 is known.

## F. Indication of additional requirements

8. Consequently, should the General Assembly adopt the draft resolution contained in document A/C.2/49/L.16, no additional appropriation would be required under section 1 at this stage.

## Notes

1/ Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1994, Supplement No. 2 (E/1994/22), chap. V.

2/ Ibid., para. 264.

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